

"INBRED CORN LINE RAA1"

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to a new and distinctive corn inbred line, designated RAA1. There are numerous steps in the development of any novel, desirable plant germplasm. Plant breeding begins with the analysis and definition of problems and weaknesses of the current germplasm, the establishment of program goals, and the definition of specific breeding objectives. The next step is selection of germplasm that possess the traits to meet the program goals. The goal is to combine in a single variety or hybrid an improved combination of desirable traits from the parental germplasm. These important traits may include higher yield, resistance to diseases and insects, better stalks and roots, tolerance to drought and heat, and better agronomic quality. With mechanical harvesting of many crops, uniformity of plant characteristics such as germination and stand establishment, growth rate, maturity and plant and ear height is important.

[0002] Choice of breeding or selection methods depends on the mode of plant reproduction, the heritability of the trait(s) being improved, and the type of cultivar used commercially (e.g., F_1 hybrid cultivar, pureline cultivar, etc.). For highly heritable traits, a choice of superior individual plants evaluated at a single location will be effective, whereas for traits with low heritability, selection should be based on mean values obtained from replicated evaluations of families of related plants. Popular selection methods commonly include pedigree selection, modified pedigree selection, mass selection, and recurrent selection.

[0003] The complexity of inheritance influences choice of the breeding method. Backcross breeding is used to transfer one or a few favorable genes for a highly heritable trait into a desirable cultivar. This approach has been used extensively for breeding disease-resistant cultivars. Various recurrent selection techniques are used to improve quantitatively inherited traits controlled by numerous genes. The use of recurrent selection in self-pollinating crops depends on the ease of pollination, the frequency of successful hybrids from each pollination, and the number of hybrid offspring from each successful cross.

[0004] Each breeding program should include a periodic, objective evaluation of the efficiency of the breeding procedure. Evaluation criteria vary depending on the goal and objectives, but should include gain from selection per year based on comparisons to an appropriate standard, overall value of the advanced breeding lines, and number of successful cultivars produced per unit of input (e.g., per year, per dollar expended, etc.).

[0005] Promising advanced breeding lines are thoroughly tested and compared to appropriate standards in environments representative of the commercial target area(s) for three years at least. The best lines are candidates for new commercial cultivars; those still deficient in a few traits are used as parents to produce new populations for further selection.

[0006] These processes, which lead to the final step of marketing and distribution, usually take from eight to 12 years from the time the first cross is made. Therefore, development of new cultivars is a time-consuming process that requires precise forward planning, efficient use of resources, and a minimum of changes in direction.

[0007] A most difficult task is the identification of individuals that are genetically superior, because for most traits the true genotypic value is masked by other confounding plant traits or environmental factors. One method of identifying a superior plant is to observe its performance relative to other experimental plants and to a widely grown standard cultivar. If a single observation is inconclusive, replicated observations provide a better estimate of its genetic worth.

[0008] The goal of plant breeding is to develop new, unique and superior corn inbred lines and hybrids. The breeder initially selects and crosses two or more parental lines, followed by repeated selfing and selection, producing many new genetic combinations. The breeder can theoretically generate billions of different genetic combinations via crossing, selfing and mutations. The breeder has no direct control at the cellular level. Therefore, two breeders will never develop the same line, or even very similar lines, having the same corn traits.

[0009] Each year, the plant breeder selects the germplasm to advance to the next generation. This germplasm is grown under unique and different geographical, climatic

and soil conditions, and further selections are then made, during and at the end of the growing season. The inbred lines which are developed are unpredictable. This unpredictability is because the breeder's selection occurs in unique environments, with no control at the DNA level (using conventional breeding procedures), and with millions of different possible genetic combinations being generated. A breeder of ordinary skill in the art cannot predict the final resulting lines he develops, except possibly in a very gross and general fashion. The same breeder cannot produce the same line twice by using the exact same original parents and the same selection techniques. This unpredictability results in the expenditure of large research monies to develop a superior new corn inbred line.

[0010] The development of commercial corn hybrids requires the development of homozygous inbred lines, the crossing of these lines, and the evaluation of the crosses. Pedigree breeding and recurrent selection breeding methods are used to develop inbred lines from breeding populations. Breeding programs combine desirable traits from two or more inbred lines or various broad-based sources into breeding pools from which inbred lines are developed by selfing and selection of desired phenotypes. The new inbreds are crossed with other inbred lines and the hybrids from these crosses are evaluated to determine which have commercial potential.

[0011] Pedigree breeding is used commonly for the improvement of self-pollinating crops or inbred lines of cross-pollinating crops. Two parents which possess favorable, complementary traits are crossed to produce an F_1 . An F_2 population is produced by selfing one or several F_1 's or by intercrossing two F_1 's (sib mating). Selection of the best individuals is usually begun in the F_2 population; then, beginning in the F_3 , the best individuals in the best families are selected. Replicated testing of families, or hybrid combinations involving individuals of these families, often follows in the F_4 generation to improve the effectiveness of selection for traits with low heritability. At an advanced stage of inbreeding (i.e., F_6 and F_7), the best lines or mixtures of phenotypically similar lines are tested for potential release as new cultivars.

[0012] Mass and recurrent selections can be used to improve populations of either self- or cross-pollinating crops. A genetically variable population of heterozygous

[0013] Backcross breeding has been used to transfer genes for a simply inherited, highly heritable trait into a desirable homozygous cultivar or inbred line which is the recurrent parent. The source of the trait to be transferred is called the donor parent. The resulting plant is expected to have the attributes of the recurrent parent (e.g., cultivar) and the desirable trait transferred from the donor parent. After the initial cross, individuals possessing the phenotype of the donor parent are selected and repeatedly crossed (backcrossed) to the recurrent parent. The resulting plant is expected to have the attributes of the recurrent parent (e.g., cultivar) and the desirable trait transferred from the donor parent.

[0015] Proper testing should detect any major faults and establish the level of superiority or improvement over current cultivars. In addition to showing superior performance, there must be a demand for a new cultivar that is compatible with industry standards or which creates a new market. The introduction of a new cultivar will incur additional costs to the seed producer, the grower, processor and consumer; for special advertising and marketing, altered seed and commercial production practices, and new product utilization. The testing preceding release of a new cultivar should take into consideration research and development costs as well as technical superiority of the final cultivar. For seed-propagated cultivars, it must be feasible to produce seed easily and economically.

[0016] Once the inbreds that give the best hybrid performance have been identified, the hybrid seed can be reproduced indefinitely as long as the homogeneity of the inbred parent is maintained. A single-cross hybrid is produced when two inbred

lines are crossed to produce the F_1 progeny. A double-cross hybrid is produced from four inbred lines crossed in pairs (AxB and CxD) and then the two F_1 hybrids are crossed again (AxB) x (CxD). Much of the hybrid vigor exhibited by F_1 hybrids is lost in the next generation (F_2). Consequently, seed from hybrid varieties is not used for planting stock.

[0017] Hybrid corn seed is typically produced by a male sterility system incorporating manual or mechanical detasseling. Alternate strips of two corn inbreds are planted in a field, and the pollen-bearing tassels are removed from one of the inbreds (female). Providing that there is sufficient isolation from sources of foreign corn pollen, the ears of the detasseled inbred will be fertilized only from the other inbred (male), and the resulting seed is therefore hybrid and will form hybrid plants.

[0018] The laborious, and occasionally unreliable, detasseling process can be avoided by using cytoplasmic male-sterile (CMS) inbreds. Plants of a CMS inbred are male sterile as a result of factors resulting from the cytoplasmic, as opposed to the nuclear, genome. Thus, this characteristic is inherited exclusively through the female parent in corn plants, since only the female provides cytoplasm to the fertilized seed. CMS plants are fertilized with pollen from another inbred that is not male-sterile. Pollen from the second inbred may or may not contribute genes that make the hybrid plants male-fertile. Seed from detasseled fertile corn and CMS produced seed of the same hybrid can be blended to insure that adequate pollen loads are available for fertilization when the hybrid plants are grown.

[0019] There are several methods of conferring genetic male sterility available, such as multiple mutant genes at separate locations within the genome that confer male sterility, as disclosed in U. S. Patent Nos. 4,654,465 and 4,727,219 to Brar et al. and chromosomal translocations as described by Patterson in U. S. Patent Nos. 3,861,709 and 3,710,511. These and all patents referred to are incorporated by reference. In addition to these methods, Albertsen et al., U. S. Patent No. 5,432,068 have developed a system of nuclear male sterility which includes: identifying a gene which is critical to male fertility, silencing this native gene which is critical to male fertility; removing the native promoter from the essential male fertility gene and

replacing it with an inducible promoter; inserting this genetically engineered gene back into the plant; and thus creating a plant that is male sterile because the inducible promoter is not "on" resulting in the male fertility gene not being transcribed. Fertility is restored by inducing, or turning "on", the promoter, which in turn allows the gene that confers male fertility to be transcribed.

[0020] There are many other methods of conferring genetic male sterility in the art, each with its own benefits and drawbacks. These methods use a variety of approaches such as delivering into the plant a gene encoding a cytotoxic substance associated with a male tissue specific promoter or an anti-sense system in which a gene critical to fertility is identified and an antisense to that gene is inserted in the plant (see, Fabinjanski, et al. EPO 89/3010153.8 publication no. 329, 308 and PCT application PCT/CA90/00037 published as WO 90/08828).

[0021] Another version useful in controlling male sterility makes use of gametocides. Gametocides are not a genetic system, but rather a topical application of chemicals. These chemicals affect cells that are critical to male fertility. The application of these chemicals affects fertility in the plants only for the growing season in which the gametocide is applied (see Carlson, G.R., U. S. Patent No. 4,936,904). Application of the gametocide, timing of the application and genotype specifically often limit the usefulness of the approach.

[0022] Corn is an important and valuable field crop. Thus, a continuing goal of plant breeders is to develop stable, high yielding corn hybrids that are agronomically sound. The reasons for this goal are obviously to maximize the amount of grain produced on the land used and to supply food for both animals and humans. To accomplish this goal, the corn breeder must select and develop corn plants that have the traits that result in superior parental lines for producing hybrids.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0023] According to the invention, there is provided a novel inbred corn line, designated RAA1. This invention thus relates to the seeds of inbred corn line RAA1, to the plants of inbred corn line RAA1 and to methods for producing a corn plant produced by crossing the inbred line RAA1 with itself or another corn line, and to methods for

producing a corn plant containing in its genetic material one or more transgenes and to the transgenic corn plants produced by that method. This invention also relates to methods for producing other inbred corn lines derived from inbred corn line RAA1 and to the inbred corn lines derived by the use of those methods. This invention further relates to hybrid corn seeds and plants produced by crossing the inbred line RAA1 with another corn line.

[0024] The inbred corn plant of the invention may further comprise, or have, a cytoplasmic factor or other factor that is capable of conferring male sterility. Parts of the corn plant of the present invention are also provided, such as e.g., pollen obtained from an inbred plant and an ovule of the inbred plant.

[0025] In another aspect, the present invention provides regenerable cells for use in tissue culture or inbred corn plant RAA1. The tissue culture will preferably be capable of regenerating plants having the physiological and morphological characteristics of the foregoing inbred corn plant, and of regenerating plants having substantially the same genotype as the foregoing inbred corn plant. Preferably, the regenerable cells in such tissue cultures will be embryos, protoplasts, meristematic cells, callus, pollen, leaves, anthers, roots, root tips, silk, flowers, kernels, ears, cobs, husks or stalks. Still further, the present invention provides corn plants regenerated from the tissue cultures of the invention.

[0026] Another objective of the invention is to provide methods for producing other inbred corn plants derived from inbred corn line RAA1. Inbred corn lines derived by the use of those methods are also part of the invention.

[0027] The invention also relates to methods for producing a corn plant containing in its genetic material one or more transgenes and to the transgenic corn plant produced by that method.

[0028] In another aspect, the present invention provides for single gene converted plants of RAA1. The single transferred gene may preferably be a dominant or recessive allele. Preferably, the single transferred gene will confer such trait as male sterility, herbicide resistance, insect resistance, resistance for bacterial, fungal, or viral disease, male fertility, and enhanced nutritional quality. The single gene may be a

[0029] The invention further provides methods for developing corn plant in a corn plant breeding program using plant breeding technique including recurrent selection, backcrossing, pedigree breeding, restriction fragment length polymorphism enhanced selection, genetic marker enhanced selection and transformation. Seeds, corn plant, and parties thereof produced by such breeding methods are also part of the invention.

DEFINITIONS

[0030] In the description and tables which follow, a number of terms are used. In order to provide a clear and consistent understanding of the specification and claims, including the scope to be given such terms, the following definitions are provided:

[0031] Allele. The allele is any of one or more alternative form of a gene, all of which alleles relates to one trait or characteristic. In a diploid cell or organism, the two alleles of a given gene occupy corresponding loci on a pair of homologous chromosomes.

[0032] Backcrossing. Backcrossing is a process in which a breeder repeatedly crosses hybrid progeny back to one of the parents, for example, a first generation hybrid F_1 with one of the parental genotype of the F_1 hybrid.

[0033] Essentially all the physiological and morphological characteristics. A plant having essentially all the physiological and morphological characteristics means a plant having the physiological and morphological characteristics, except for the characteristics derived from the converted gene.

[0034] Regeneration. Regeneration refers to the development of a plant from tissue culture.

[0035] Single gene converted. Single gene converted or conversion plant refers to plants which are developed by a plant breeding technique called backcrossing wherein essentially all of the desired morphological and physiological characteristics of an inbred are recovered in addition to the single gene transferred into the inbred via the backcrossing technique or via genetic engineering.

[0036] Predicted RM. This trait for a hybrid, predicted relative maturity (RM), is based on the harvest moisture of the grain. The relative maturity rating is based on a known set of checks and utilizes conventional maturity such as the Comparative Relative Maturity Rating System or its similar, the Minnesota Relative Maturity Rating System.

[0037] MN RM. This represents the Minnesota Relative Maturity Rating (MN RM) for the hybrid and is based on the harvest moisture of the grain relative to a standard set of checks of previously determined MN RM rating. Regression analysis is used to compute this rating.

[0038] Yield (Quintals/Hectare). The yield is the actual yield of the grain at harvest adjusted to 15.5% moisture.

[0039] Moisture. The moisture is the actual percentage moisture of the grain at harvest.

[0040] GDU Silk. The GDU silk (=heat unit silk) is the number of growing degree units (GDU) or heat units required for an inbred line or hybrid to reach silk emergence from the time of planting. Growing degree units are calculated by the Barger Method, where the heat units for a 24-hour period are: $GDU = ((\text{Max Temp} + \text{Min Temp})/2) - 50$. The highest maximum used is 86° F and the lowest minimum used is 50° F. For each hybrid, it takes a certain number of GDUs to reach various stages of plant development. GDUs are a way of measuring plant maturity.

[0041] Stalk Lodging. This is the percentage of plants that stalk lodge, i.e., stalk breakage, as measured by either natural lodging or pushing the stalks determining the percentage of plants that break off below the ear. This is a relative rating of a hybrid to other hybrids for standability.

[0042] Root Lodging. The root lodging is the percentage of plants that root lodge; i.e., those that lean from the vertical axis at an approximate 30° angle or greater would be counted as root lodged.

[0043] Plant Height. This is a measure of the height of the hybrid from the ground to the tip of the tassel, and is measured in centimeters.

[0044] Ear Height. The ear height is a measure from the ground to the ear node attachment, and is measured in centimeters.

[0045] Dropped Ears. This is a measure of the number of dropped ears per plot, and represents the percentage of plants that dropped an ear prior to harvest.

[0046] Stay Green. Stay green is the measure of plant health near the time of black layer formation (physiological maturity). A high score indicates better late-season plant health.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0047] Inbred corn line RAA1 is a yellow dent corn with superior characteristics, and provides an excellent parental line in crosses for producing first generation (F₁) hybrid corn. Inbred corn line RAA1 is best adapted to the areas of the United States corn belt with a latitude of greater than 41° North and can be used to produce hybrids having a relative maturity of approximately 90-100 on the Comparative Relative Maturity Rating System for harvest moisture of grain. Inbred corn line RAA1 shows an excellent seedling vigor, an early pollen shed, excellent brittle stalk resistance, excellent husk cover and above average stay green.

[0048] RAA1 is similar to LH74, however there are numerous differences including the fact that RAA1 flowers substantially earlier than LH74. Hybrids with RAA1 also are earlier in maturity and possess better stalk quality.

[0049] RAA1 has a plant height of 202 cm with an average ear insertion of 69 cm. The kernels are arranged in mostly distinct and slightly curved rows on the ear. Heat units to 50% pollen shed are approximately 1341 and to 50% silk are approximately 1341.

[0050] RAA1 is an inbred line with very high yield potential and very strong stalk and roots in hybrids. For an inbred of its maturity, RAA1 results in a medium ear position and gives good stalk strength in hybrid combination. Often these hybrid combinations result in plants which are of much better than average overall health when compared to inbred lines of similar maturity.

[0051] Some of the criteria used to select ears in various generations include: yield, stalk quality, root quality, disease tolerance, late plant greenness, late season

plant intactness, ear retention, ear height, pollen shedding ability, silking ability, and corn borer tolerance. During the development of the line, crosses were made to inbred testers for the purpose of estimating the line's general and specific combining ability, and parallel evaluations were run in the USA by the Kirkland, Ill. Research Station. The inbred was evaluated further as a line and in numerous crosses by the Kirkland station and other research stations across the Corn Belt. The inbred has proven to have a good combining ability in hybrid combinations.

[0052] The inbred line has shown uniformity and stability for the traits, within the limits of environmental influence for the traits. It has been self-pollinated a sufficient number of generations with careful attention to uniformity of plant type. The line has been increased with continued observation for uniformity. No variant traits have been observed or are expected in RAA1.

[0053] Inbred corn line RAA1 has the following morphologic and other characteristics (based primarily on data collected at Kirkland, Ill.).

VARIETY DESCRIPTION INFORMATION

[0054] TYPE: Dent

[0055] REGION WHERE DEVELOPED: Northcentral Illinois.

[0056] MATURITY: 95 Days

	Days	Heat Units
[0057] From emergence to 50% of plants in silk:	80	1341
[0058] From emergence to 50% of plants in pollen :	80	1341

Heat Units: = GDU= ((Max Temp + Min Temp)/2)-50

[0059] PLANT:

[0060] Plant Height to tassel tip: 202.3 cm (Standard Deviation = 7.36)

[0061] Ear Height to base of top ear 68.9 cm (4.25)

[0062] Average Length of Top Ear Internode: 13.55 cm (.44)

[0063] Average number of Tillers: 0.0 (0.00)

[0064] Average Number of Ears per Stalk: 1.0 (0.00)

[0065] Anthocyanin of Brace Roots: Dark

[0094] Number of Kernel Rows: 13.4 (1.35)

- [0095] Kernel Rows: Distinct
- [0096] Row Alignment: Slightly Curved
- [0097] Shank Length: 10.0 cm (1.65)
- [0098] Ear Taper: Average to extreme
- [0099] KERNEL: (Dried)
- [0100] Kernel Length: 11.4 mm (.44)
- [0101] Kernel Width: 8.1 mm (.42)
- [0102] Kernel Thickness: 4.9 mm (.45)
- [0103] Round Kernels (Shape Grade): 41 %
- [0104] Aleurone Color Pattern: Homozygous
- [0105] Aleurone Color: Colorless
- [0106] Hard Endosperm Color: Yellow Munsell code 2.5Y 7/8
- [0107] Endosperm Type: Normal Starch
- [0108] Weight per 100 kernels (unsized sample): 29.5 gm (1.84)
- [0109] COB:
- [0110] Cob Diameter at Mid-Point: 24.5 mm (.98)
- [0111] Cob Color: Red Munsell code 10 R 4/6
- [0112] AGRONOMIC TRAITS:
- [0113] Stay Green (at 65 days after anthesis) (Rate on scale from 1=worst to 9=excellent): 7
- [0114] 0 % Dropped Ears (at 65 days after anthesis)
- [0115] 0 % Pre-anthesis Brittle Snapping
- [0116] 0 % Pre-anthesis Root Lodging
- [0117] 0 % Post-anthesis Root Lodging (at 65 days after anthesis)
- [0118] Yield of Inbred Per Se (at 12-13% grain moisture): 52 Bu/ Acre

FURTHER EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

[0119] This invention also is directed to methods for producing a corn plant by crossing a first parent corn plant with a second parent corn plant wherein either the first or second parent corn plant is an inbred corn plant of the line RAA1. Further, both first and second parent corn plants can come from the inbred corn line RAA1. Still further,

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2
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[0123] Tissue culture of corn is described in European Patent Application, publication 160,390, incorporated herein by reference. Corn tissue culture procedures are also described in Green and Rhodes, "Plant Regeneration in Tissue Culture of Maize," *Maize for Biological Research* (Plant Molecular Biology Association, Charlottesville, VA 367-372, (1982)) and in Duncan et al., "The Production of Callus Capable of Plant Regeneration from Immature Embryos of Numerous *Zea Mays* Genotypes," 165 *Planta* 322:332 (1985). Thus, another aspect of this invention is to provide cells which upon growth and differentiation produce corn plants having the physiological and morphological characteristics of inbred corn line RAA1.

[0125] With the advent of molecular biological techniques that have allowed the isolation and characterization of genes that encode specific protein products, scientists in the field of plant biology developed a strong interest in engineering the genome of plants to contain and express foreign genes, or additional, or modified versions of native, or endogenous, genes (perhaps driven by different promoters) in order to alter the traits of a plant in a specific manner. Such foreign additional and/or modified genes are referred to herein collectively as “transgenes”. Over the last fifteen to twenty years several methods for producing transgenic plants have been developed, and the present invention, in particular embodiments, also relates to transformed versions of the claimed inbred line.

[0126] Plant transformation involves the construction of an expression vector which will function in plant cells. Such a vector comprises DNA comprising a gene under control of or operatively linked to a regulatory element (for example, a promoter). The expression vector may contain one or more such operably linked gene/regulatory

element combinations. The vector(s) may be in the form of a plasmid, and can be used alone or in combination with other plasmids, to provide transformed corn plants, using transformation methods as described below to incorporate transgenes into the genetic material of the corn plant(s).

Expression Vectors for Corn Transformation

[0127] Marker Genes - Expression vectors include at least one genetic marker, operably linked to a regulatory element (a promoter, for example) that allows transformed cells containing the marker to be either recovered by negative selection, i.e., inhibiting growth of cells that do not contain the selectable marker gene, or by positive selection, i.e., screening for the product encoded by the genetic marker. Many commonly used selectable marker genes for plant transformation are well known in the transformation arts, and include, for example, genes that code for enzymes that metabolically detoxify a selective chemical agent which may be an antibiotic or a herbicide, or genes that encode an altered target which is insensitive to the inhibitor. A few positive selection methods are also known in the art.

[0128] One commonly used selectable marker gene for plant transformation is the neomycin phosphotransferase II (nptII) gene, isolated from transposon Tn5, which when placed under the control of plant regulatory signals confers resistance to kanamycin. Fraley et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.*, 80:4803 (1983). Another commonly used selectable marker gene is the hygromycin phosphotransferase gene which confers resistance to the antibiotic hygromycin. Vanden Elzen et al., *Plant Mol. Biol.*, 5:299 (1985).

[0129] Additional selectable marker genes of bacterial origin that confer resistance to antibiotics include gentamycin acetyl transferase, streptomycin phosphotransferase, aminoglycoside-3'-adenyl transferase, the bleomycin resistance determinant. Hayford et al., *Plant Physiol.* 86:1216 (1988), Jones et al., *Mol. Gen. Genet.*, 210:86 (1987), Svab et al., *Plant Mol. Biol.* 14:197 (1990), Hille et al., *Plant Mol. Biol.* 7:171 (1986). Other selectable marker genes confer resistance to herbicides such as glyphosate, glufosinate or broxynil. Comai et al., *Nature* 317:741-744 (1985),

Gordon-Kamm et al., *Plant Cell* 2:603-618 (1990) and Stalker et al., *Science* 242:419-423 (1988).

[0130] Other selectable marker genes for plant transformation are not of bacterial origin. These genes include, for example, mouse dihydrofolate reductase, plant 5-enolpyruvylshikimate-3-phosphate synthase and plant acetolactate synthase. Eichholtz et al., *Somatic Cell Mol. Genet.* 13:67 (1987), Shah et al., *Science* 233:478 (1986), Charest et al., *Plant Cell Rep.* 8:643 (1990).

[0131] Another class of marker genes for plant transformation require screening of presumptively transformed plant cells rather than direct genetic selection of transformed cells for resistance to a toxic substance such as an antibiotic. These genes are particularly useful to quantify or visualize the spatial pattern of expression of a gene in specific tissues and are frequently referred to as reporter genes because they can be fused to a gene or gene regulatory sequence for the investigation of gene expression. Commonly used genes for screening presumptively transformed cells include β -glucuronidase (GUS), β -galactosidase, luciferase and chloramphenicol, acetyltransferase. Jefferson, R.A., *Plant Mol. Biol. Rep.* 5:387 (1987), Teeri et al., *EMBO J.* 8:343 (1989), Koncz et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci U.S.A.* 84:131 (1987), DeBlock et al., *EMBO J.* 3:1681 (1984). Another approach to the identification of relatively rare transformation events has been use of a gene that encodes a dominant constitutive regulator of the *Zea mays* anthocyanin pigmentation pathway. Ludwig et al., *Science* 247:449 (1990).

[0132] Recently, in vivo methods for visualizing GUS activity that do not require destruction of plant tissue have been made available. Molecular Probes publication 2908, Imagen Green™, p. 1-4 (1993) and Naleway et al., *J. Cell Biol.* 115:151a (1991). However, these in vivo methods for visualizing GUS activity have not proven useful for recovery of transformed cells because of low sensitivity, high fluorescent backgrounds and limitations associated with the use of luciferase genes as selectable markers.

[0133] More recently, a gene encoding Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP) has been utilized as a marker for gene expression in prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells.

[0134] Promoters - Genes included in expression vectors must be driven by nucleotide sequence comprising a regulatory element, for example, a promoter. Several types of promoters are now well known in the transformation arts, as are other regulatory elements that can be used alone or in combination with promoters.

A. Inducible Promoters

[0137] Any inducible promoter can be used in the instant invention. See Ward et al., *Plant Mol. Biol.* 22:361-366 (1993). Exemplary inducible promoters include, but are not limited to, that from the ACEI system which responds to copper (Meft et al., *PNAS* 90:4567-4571 (1993)); In2 gene from maize which responds to benzenesulfonamide

herbicide safeners (Hershey et al., *Mol. Gen. Genetics* 227:229-237 (1991) and Gatz et al., *Mol. Gen. Genetics* 243:32-38 (1994)) or Tet repressor from Tn10 (Gatz et al., *Mol. Gen. Genetics* 227:229-237 (1991)). A particularly preferred inducible promoter is a promoter that responds to an inducing agent to which plants do not normally respond. An exemplary inducible promoter is the inducible promoter from a steroid hormone gene, the transcriptional activity of which is induced by a glucocorticosteroid hormone. Schena et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 88:0421 (1991).

B. Constitutive Promoters

[0138] A constitutive promoter is operably linked to a gene for expression in corn or the constitutive promoter is operably linked to a nucleotide sequence encoding a signal sequence which is operably linked to a gene for expression in corn.

[0139] Many different constitutive promoters can be utilized in the instant invention. Exemplary constitutive promoters include, but are not limited to, the promoters from plant viruses such as the 35S promoter from CaMV (Odell et al., *Nature* 313:810-812 (1985) and the promoters from such genes as rice actin (McElroy et al., *Plant Cell* 2:163-171 (1990)); ubiquitin (Christensen et al., *Plant Mol. Biol.* 12:619-632 (1989) and Christensen et al., *Plant Mol. Biol.* 18:675-689 (1992)); pEMU (Last et al., *Theor. Appl. Genet.* 81:581-588 (1991)); MAS (Velten et al., *EMBO J.* 3:2723-2730 (1984)) and maize H3 histone (Lepetit et al., *Mol. Gen. Genetics* 231:276-285 (1992) and Atanassova et al., *Plant Journal* 2 (3): 291-300 (1992)).

[0140] The ALS promoter, Xba1/NcoI fragment 5' to the *Brassica napus* ALS3 structural gene (or a nucleotide sequence similarity to said Xba1/NcoI fragment), represents a particularly useful constitutive promoter. See PCT application WO96/30530.

C. Tissue-specific or Tissue-preferred Promoters

[0141] A tissue-specific promoter is operably linked to a gene for expression in corn. Optionally, the tissue-specific promoter is operably linked to a nucleotide sequence encoding a signal sequence which is operably linked to a gene for expression in corn. Plants transformed with a gene of interest operably linked to a tissue-specific

promoter produce the protein product of the transgene exclusively, or preferentially, in a specific tissue.

[0142] Any tissue-specific or tissue-preferred promoter can be utilized in the instant invention. Exemplary tissue-specific or tissue-preferred promoters include, but are not limited to, a root-preferred promoter, such as that from the phaseolin gene (Murai et al., *Science* 23:476-482 (1983) and Sengupta-Gopalan et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 82:3320-3324 (1985)); a leaf-specific and light-induced promoter such as that from cab or rubisco (Simpson et al., *EMBO J.* 4(11):2723-2729 (1985) and Timko et al., *Nature* 318:579-582 (1985)); an anther-specific promoter such as that from LAT52 (Twell et al., *Mol. Gen. Genetics* 217:240-245 (1989)); a pollen-specific promoter such as that from Zm13 (Guerrero et al., *Mol. Gen. Genetics* 244:161-168 (1993)) or a microspore-preferred promoter such as that from apg (Twell et al., *Sex. Plant Reprod.* 6:217-224 (1993).

Signal Sequences for Targeting Proteins to Subcellular Compartments

[0143] Transport of protein produced by transgenes to a subcellular compartment such as the chloroplast, vacuole, peroxisome, glyoxysome, cell wall or mitochondrion or for secretion into the apoplast, is accomplished by means of operably linking the nucleotide sequence encoding a signal sequence to the 5' and/or 3' region of a gene encoding the protein of interest. Targeting sequences at the 5' and/or 3' end of the structural gene may determine, during protein synthesis and processing, where the encoded protein is ultimately compartmentalized.

[0144] The presence of a signal sequence directs a polypeptide to either an intracellular organelle or subcellular compartment or for secretion to the apoplast. Many signal sequences are known in the art. See, for example Becker et al., *Plant Mol. Biol.* 20:49 (1992), Close, P.S., Master's Thesis, Iowa State University (1993), Knox, C., et al., "Structure and Organization of Two Divergent Alpha-Amylase Genes from Barley", *Plant Mol. Biol.* 9:3-17 (1987), Lerner et al., *Plant Physiol.* 91:124-129 (1989), Fontes et al., *Plant Cell* 3:483-496 (1991), Matsuoka et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 88:834 (1991), Gould et al., *J. Cell. Biol.* 108:1657 (1989), Creissen et al., *Plant J.* 2:129 (1991), Kalderon, et al., A short amino acid sequence able to specify nuclear

location, *Cell* 39:499-509 (1984), Steifel, et al., Expression of a maize cell wall hydroxyproline-rich glycoprotein gene in early leaf and root vascular differentiation, *Plant Cell* 2:785-793 (1990).

Foreign Protein Genes and Agronomic Genes

[0145] With transgenic plants according to the present invention, a foreign protein can be produced in commercial quantities. Thus, techniques for the selection and propagation of transformed plants, which are well understood in the art, yield a plurality of transgenic plants which are harvested in a conventional manner, and a foreign protein then can be extracted from a tissue of interest or from total biomass. Protein extraction from plant biomass can be accomplished by known methods which are discussed, for example, by Heney and Orr, *Anal. Biochem.* 114:92-6 (1981).

[0146] According to a preferred embodiment, the transgenic plant provided for commercial production of foreign protein is corn. In another preferred embodiment, the biomass of interest is seed. For the relatively small number of transgenic plants that show higher levels of expression, a genetic map can be generated, primarily via conventional RFLP, PCR and SSR analysis, which identifies the approximate chromosomal location of the integrated DNA molecule. For exemplary methodologies in this regard, see Glick and Thompson, *Methods in Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology CRC Press, Boca Raton* 269:284 (1993). Map information concerning chromosomal location is useful for proprietary protection of a subject transgenic plant. If unauthorized propagation is undertaken and crosses made with other germplasm, the map of the integration region can be compared to similar maps for suspect plants, to determine if the latter have a common parentage with the subject plant. Map comparisons would involve hybridizations, RFLP, PCR, SSR and sequencing, all of which are conventional techniques.

[0147] Likewise, by means of the present invention, agronomic genes can be expressed in transformed plants. More particularly, plants can be genetically engineered to express various phenotypes of agronomic interest. Exemplary genes implicated in this regard include, but are not limited to, those categorized below:

1. Genes That Confer Resistance to Pests or Disease and That Encode:

[0148] A. Plant disease resistance genes. Plant defenses are often activated by specific interaction between the product of a disease resistance gene (R) in the plant and the product of a corresponding avirulence (Avr) gene in the pathogen. A plant inbred line can be transformed with cloned resistance gene to engineer plants that are resistant to specific pathogen strains. See, for example Jones et al., *Science* 266:789 (1994) (cloning of the tomato Cf-9 gene for resistance to *Cladosporium fulvum*); Martin et al., *Science* 262:1432 (1993) (tomato Pto gene for resistance to *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. Tomato encodes a protein kinase); Mindrinos et al., *Cell* 78:1089 (1994) (Arabidopsis RSP2 gene for resistance to *Pseudomonas syringae*).

[0149] B. A *Bacillus thuringiensis* protein, a derivative thereof or a synthetic polypeptide modeled thereon. See, for example, Geiser et al., *Gene* 48:109 (1986), who disclose the cloning and nucleotide sequence of a Bt δ -endotoxin gene. Moreover, DNA molecules encoding δ -endotoxin genes can be purchased from American Type Culture Collection, Manassas, Virginia, for example, under ATCC Accession Nos. 40098, 67136, 31995 and 31998.

[0150] C. A lectin. See, for example, the disclose by Van Damme et al., *Plant Molec. Biol.* 24:25 (1994), who disclose the nucleotide sequences of several *Clivia miniata* mannose-binding lectin genes.

[0151] D. A vitamin-binding protein such as avidin. See PCT application US93/06487, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference. The application teaches the use of avidin and avidin homologues as larvicides against insect pests.

[0152] E. An enzyme inhibitor, for example, a protease or proteinase inhibitor or an amylase inhibitor. See, for example, Abe et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 262:16793 (1987) (nucleotide sequence of rice cysteine proteinase inhibitor), Huub et al., *Plant Molec. Biol.* 21:985 (1993) (nucleotide sequence of cDNA encoding tobacco proteinase inhibitor I), Sumitani et al., *Biosci. Biotech. Biochem.* 57:1243 (1993) (nucleotide sequence of *Streptomyces nitrosporeus* α -amylase inhibitor).

[0153] F. An insect-specific hormone or pheromone such as an ecdysteroid and juvenile hormone, a variant thereof, a mimetic based thereon, or an

antagonist or agonist thereof. See, for example, the disclosure by Hammock et al., *Nature* 344:458 (1990), of baculovirus expression of cloned juvenile hormone esterase, an inactivator of juvenile hormone.

[0154] G. An insect-specific peptide or neuropeptide which, upon expression, disrupts the physiology of the affected pest. For example, see the disclosures of Regan, *J. Biol. Chem.* 269:9 (1994) (expression cloning yields DNA coding for insect diuretic hormone receptor), and Pratt et al., *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Comm.* 163:1243 (1989) (an allostatin is identified in *Diploptera punctata*). See also U. S. Patent No. 5,266,317 to Tomalski et al., who disclose genes encoding insect-specific, paralytic neurotoxins.

[0155] H. An insect-specific venom produced in nature by a snake, a wasp, etc. For example, see Pang et al., *Gene* 116:165 (1992), for disclosure of heterologous expression in plants of a gene coding for a scorpion insectotoxic peptide.

[0156] I. An enzyme responsible for a hyper accumulation of a monoterpane, a sesquiterpene, a steroid, hydroxamic acid, a phenylpropanoid derivative or another non-protein molecule with insecticidal activity.

[0157] J. An enzyme involved in the modification, including the post-translational modification, of a biologically active molecule; for example, a glycolytic enzyme, a proteolytic enzyme, a lipolytic enzyme, a nuclease, a cyclase, a transaminase, an esterase, a hydrolase, a phosphatase, a kinase, a phosphorylase, a polymerase, an elastase, a chitinase and a glucanase, whether natural or synthetic. See PCT application WO 93/02197 in the name of Scott et al., which discloses the nucleotide sequence of a callase gene. DNA molecules which contain chitinase-encoding sequences can be obtained, for example, from the ATCC under Accession Nos. 39637 and 67152. See also Kramer et al., *Insect Biochem. Molec. Biol.* 23:691 (1993), who teach the nucleotide sequence of a cDNA encoding tobacco hookworm chitinase, and Kawalleck et al., *Plant Molec. Biol.* 21:673 (1993), who provide the nucleotide sequence of the parsley *ubi4-2* polyubiquitin gene.

[0158] K. A molecule that stimulates signal transduction. For example, see the disclosure by Botella et al., *Plant Molec. Biol.* 24:757 (1994), of nucleotide

sequences for mung bean calmodulin cDNA clones, and Griess et al., *Plant Physiol.* 104:1467 (1994), who provide the nucleotide sequence of a maize calmodulin cDNA clone.

[0159] L. A hydrophobic moment peptide. See PCT application WO95/16776 (disclosure of peptide derivatives of Tachyplesin which inhibit fungal plant pathogens) and PCT application WO95/18855 (teaches synthetic antimicrobial peptides that confer disease resistance), the respective contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

[0160] M. A membrane permease, a channel former or a channel blocker. For example, see the disclosure of Jaynes et al., *Plant Sci* 89:43 (1993), of heterologous expression of a cecropin- β , lytic peptide analog to render transgenic tobacco plants resistant to *Pseudomonas solanacearum*.

[0161] N. A viral-invasive protein or a complex toxin derived therefrom. For example, the accumulation of viral coat proteins in transformed plant cells imparts resistance to viral infection and/or disease development effected by the virus from which the coat protein gene is derived, as well as by related viruses. See Beachy et al., *Ann. rev. Phytopathol.* 28:451 (1990). Coat protein-mediated resistance has been conferred upon transformed plants against alfalfa mosaic virus, cucumber mosaic virus, tobacco streak virus, potato virus X, potato virus Y, tobacco etch virus, tobacco rattle virus and tobacco mosaic virus. Id.

[0162] O. An insect-specific antibody or an immunotoxin derived therefrom. Thus, an antibody targeted to a critical metabolic function in the insect gut would inactivate an affected enzyme, killing the insect. Cf. Taylor et al., Abstract #497, Seventh Int'l Symposium on Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions (Edinburgh, Scotland) (1994) (enzymatic inactivation in transgenic tobacco via production of single-chain antibody fragments).

[0163] P. A virus-specific antibody. See, for example, Tavladoraki et al., *Nature* 366:469 (1993), who show that transgenic plants expressing recombinant antibody genes are protected from virus attack.

[0164]

[0165]

2. Genes That Confer Resistance to a Herbicide, For Example:

[0166]

[0167]

plants that express chimeric bar genes coding for phosphinothricin acetyl transferase activity. Exemplary of genes conferring resistance to phenoxy propionic acids and cyclohexones, such as sethoxydim and haloxyfop are the Acc1-S1, Acc1-S2 and Acc1-S3 genes described by Marshall et al., *Theor. Appl. Genet.* 83:435 (1992).

[0168] C. A herbicide that inhibits photosynthesis, such as a triazine (psbA and gs+ genes) and a benzonitrile (nitrilase gene). Przibilla et al., *Plant Cell* 3:169 (1991), describe the transformation of *Chlamydomonas* with plasmids encoding mutant psbA genes. Nucleotide sequences for nitrilase genes are disclosed in U. S. Patent No. 4,810,648 to Stalker, and DNA molecules containing these genes are available under ATCC Accession Nos. 53435, 67441, and 67442. Cloning and expression of DNA coding for a glutathione S-transferase is described by Hayes et al., *Biochem. J.* 285:173 (1992).

3. Genes That Confer or Contribute to a Value-Added Trait, Such as:

[0169] A. Modified fatty acid metabolism, for example, by transforming a plant with an antisense gene of stearyl-ACP desaturase to increase stearic acid content of the plant. See Knultzon et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 89:2624 (1992).

[0170] B. Decreased phytate content

[0171] 1) Introduction of a phytase-encoding gene would enhance breakdown of phytate, adding more free phosphate to the transformed plant. For example, see Van Hartingsveldt et al., *Gene* 127:87 (1993), for a disclosure of the nucleotide sequence of an *Aspergillus niger* phytase gene.

[0172] 2) A gene could be introduced that reduced phytate content. In maize, this, for example, could be accomplished, by cloning and then reintroducing DNA associated with the single allele which is responsible for maize mutants characterized by low levels of phytic acid. See Raboy et al., *Maydica* 35:383 (1990).

[0173] C. Modified carbohydrate composition effected, for example, by transforming plants with a gene coding for an enzyme that alters the branching pattern of starch. See Shiroza et al., *J. Bacteol.* 170:810 (1988) (nucleotide sequence of *Streptococcus mutants* fructosyltransferase gene), Steinmetz et al., *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 20:220 (1985) (nucleotide sequence of *Bacillus subtilis* levansucrase gene), Pen et al.,

Bio/Technology 10:292 (1992) (production of transgenic plants that express *Bacillus licheniformis* α -amylase), Elliot et al., *Plant Molec. Biol.* 21:515 (1993) (nucleotide sequences of tomato invertase genes), Sogaard et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 268:22480 (1993) (site-directed mutagenesis of barley α -amylase gene), and Fisher et al., *Plant Physiol.* 102:1045 (1993) (maize endosperm starch branching enzyme II).

Methods for Corn Transformation

[0174] Numerous methods for plant transformation have been developed, including biological and physical, plant transformation protocols. See, for example, Miki et al., "Procedures for Introducing Foreign DNA into Plants" in *Methods in Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology*, Glick B.R. and Thompson, J. E. Eds. (CRC Press, Inc., Boca Raton, 1993) pages 67-88. In addition, expression vectors and in vitro culture methods for plant cell or tissue transformation and regeneration of plants are available. See, for example, Gruber et al., "Vectors for Plant Transformation" in *Methods in Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology*, Glick B.R. and Thompson, J. E. Eds. (CRC Press, Inc., Boca Raton, 1993) pages 89-119.

A. Agrobacterium-mediated Transformation

[0175] One method for introducing an expression vector into plants is based on the natural transformation system of *Agrobacterium*. See, for example, Horsch et al., *Science* 227:1229 (1985). *A. tumefaciens* and *A. rhizogenes* are plant pathogenic soil bacteria which genetically transform plant cells. The Ti and Ri plasmids of *A. tumefaciens* and *A. rhizogenes*, respectively, carry genes responsible for genetic transformation of the plant. See, for example, Kado, C. I., *Crit. Rev. Plant Sci.* 10:1 (1991). Descriptions of *Agrobacterium* vector systems and methods for *Agrobacterium*-mediated gene transfer are provided by Gruber et al., *supra*, Miki et al., *supra*, and Moloney et al., *Plant Cell Reports* 8:238 (1989). See also, U. S. Patent No. 5,591,616 issued January 7, 1997.

B. Direct Gene Transfer

[0176] Despite the fact the host range for *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation is broad, some major cereal crop species and gymnosperms have generally been recalcitrant to this mode of gene transfer, even though some success

has recently been achieved in rice and corn. Hiei et al., *The Plant Journal* 6:271-282 (1994) and U. S. Patent No. 5,591,616 issued January 7, 1997. Several methods of plant transformation, collectively referred to as direct gene transfer, have been developed as an alternative to *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation.

[0177] A generally applicable method of plant transformation is microprojectile-mediated transformation wherein DNA is carried on the surface of microprojectiles measuring 1 to 4 μm . The expression vector is introduced into plant tissues with a biolistic device that accelerates the microprojectiles to speeds of 300 to 600 m/s which is sufficient to penetrate plant cell walls and membranes. Sanford et al., *Part. Sci. Technol.* 5:27 (1987), Sanford, J.C., *Trends Biotech.* 6:299 (1988), Klein et al., *Bio/Technology* 6:559-563 (1988), Sanford, J.C., *Physiol Plant* 7:206 (1990), Klein et al., *Biotechnology* 10:268 (1992). In corn, several target tissues can be bombarded with DNA-coated microprojectiles in order to produce transgenic plants, including, for example, callus (Type I or Type II), immature embryos, and meristematic tissue.

[0178] Another method for physical delivery of DNA to plants is sonication of target cells. Zhang et al., *Bio/Technology* 9:996 (1991). Alternatively, liposome or spheroplast fusion have been used to introduce expression vectors into plants. Deshayes et al., *EMBO J.*, 4:2731 (1985), Christou et al., *Proc Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 84:3962 (1987). Direct uptake of DNA into protoplasts using CaCl_2 precipitation, polyvinyl alcohol or poly-L-ornithine have also been reported. Hain et al., *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 199:161 (1985) and Draper et al., *Plant Cell Physiol.* 23:451 (1982). Electroporation of protoplasts and whole cells and tissues have also been described. Donn et al., In Abstracts of VIIth International Congress on Plant Cell and Tissue Culture IAPTC, A2-38, p 53 (1990); D'Halluin et al., *Plant Cell* 4:1495-1505 (1992) and Spencer et al., *Plant Mol. Biol.* 24:51-61 (1994).

[0179] Following transformation of corn target tissues, expression of the above-described selectable marker genes allows for preferential selection of transformed cells, tissues and/or plants, using regeneration and selection methods now well known in the art.

[0180] The foregoing methods for transformation would typically be used for producing a transgenic inbred line. The transgenic inbred line could then be crossed, with another (non-transformed or transformed) inbred line, in order to produce a new transgenic inbred line. Alternatively, a genetic trait which has been engineered into a particular corn line using the foregoing transformation techniques could be moved into another line using traditional backcrossing techniques that are well known in the plant breeding arts. For example, a backcrossing approach could be used to move an engineered trait from a public, non-elite inbred line into an elite inbred line, or from an inbred line containing a foreign gene in its genome into an inbred line or lines which do not contain that gene. As used herein, "crossing" can refer to a simple X by Y cross, or the process of backcrossing, depending on the context.

[0181] When the term inbred corn plant is used in the context of the present invention, this also includes any single gene conversions of that inbred. The term single gene converted plant as used herein refers to those corn plants which are developed by a plant breeding technique called backcrossing wherein essentially all of the desired morphological and physiological characteristics of an inbred are recovered in addition to the single gene transferred into the inbred via the backcrossing technique. Backcrossing methods can be used with the present invention to improve or introduce a characteristic into the inbred. The term backcrossing as used herein refers to the repeated crossing of a hybrid progeny back to one of the parental corn plants for that inbred. The parental corn plant which contributes the gene for the desired characteristic is termed the nonrecurrent or donor parent. This terminology refers to the fact that the nonrecurrent parent is used one time in the backcross protocol and therefore does not recur. The parental corn plant to which the gene or genes from the nonrecurrent parent are transferred is known as the recurrent parent as it is used for several rounds in the backcrossing protocol (Poehlman & Sleper, 1994; Fehr, 1987). In a typical backcross protocol, the original inbred of interest (recurrent parent) is crossed to a second inbred (nonrecurrent parent) that carries the single gene of interest to be transferred. The resulting progeny from this cross are then crossed again to the recurrent parent and the process is repeated until a corn plant is obtained wherein

essentially all of the desired morphological and physiological characteristics of the recurrent parent are recovered in the converted plant, in addition to the single transferred gene from the nonrecurrent parent.

[0182] The selection of a suitable recurrent parent is an important step for a successful backcrossing procedure. The goal of a backcross protocol is to alter or substitute a single trait or characteristic in the original inbred. To accomplish this, a single gene of the recurrent inbred is modified or substituted with the desired gene from the nonrecurrent parent, while retaining essentially all of the rest of the desired genetic, and therefore the desired physiological and morphological, constitution of the original inbred. The choice of the particular nonrecurrent parent will depend on the purpose of the backcross, one of the major purposes is to add some commercially desirable, agronomically important trait to the plant. The exact backcrossing protocol will depend on the characteristic or trait being altered to determine an appropriate testing protocol. Although backcrossing methods are simplified when the characteristic being transferred is a dominant allele, a recessive allele may also be transferred. In this instance it may be necessary to introduce a test of the progeny to determine if the desired characteristic has been successfully transferred.

[0183] Many single gene traits have been identified that are not regularly selected for in the development of a new inbred but that can be improved by backcrossing techniques. Single gene traits may or may not be transgenic, examples of these traits include but are not limited to, male sterility, waxy starch, herbicide resistance, resistance for bacterial, fungal, or viral disease, insect resistance, male fertility, enhanced nutritional quality, industrial usage, yield stability and yield enhancement. These genes are generally inherited through the nucleus. Some known exceptions to this are the genes for male sterility, some of which are inherited cytoplasmically, but still act as single gene traits. Several of these single gene traits are described in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,777,196; 5,948,957 and 5,969,212, the disclosures of which are specifically hereby incorporated by reference.

Industrial Applicability

[0185] Corn, including both grain and non-grain portions of the plant, is also used extensively as livestock feed, primarily for beef cattle, dairy cattle, hogs and poultry.

[0187] Plant parts other than the grain of corn are also used in industry, for example: stalks and husks are made into paper and wallboard and cobs are used for fuel and to make charcoal.

TABLES

[0189] In the tables that follow, the traits and characteristics of inbred corn line RAA1 are given in hybrid combination. The data collected on inbred corn line RAA1 is presented for the key characteristics and traits. The tables present yield test information about RAA1. RAA1 was tested in several hybrid combinations at numerous locations, with two or three replications per location. Information about these hybrids, as compared to several check hybrids, is presented.

[0190] The first pedigree listed in the comparison group is the hybrid containing RAA1. Information for each pedigree includes:

[0191] 1. Mean yield in Qx/Ha of the hybrid across all locations (Mean Yield) is shown in column 2.

[0192] 2. A mean for the percentage moisture (% Moist) for the hybrid across all locations is shown in column 3.

[0193] 3. A mean of the percentage of plants with stalk lodging (% Stalk) across all locations is shown in column 4.

[0194] 4. A mean of the percentage of plants with root lodging (% Root) across all locations is shown in column 5.

[0195] 5. A mean of the stay green across all location from 1 (poor) to 9 (good) is shown in column 6.

[0196] 6. Test weight is the grain density measured in kg per 100 liters is shown in column 7.

[0197] 7. A mean of plant height in cm is shown in column 8.

TABLE 1

Overall Comparisons Hybrid vs. Check Hybrids Location: 1998 and 1999 49 Locations							
Pedigree	Mean Yield	% Moist	% Stalk	% Root	Stay Green	Test Weight	Plant Height
RAA1* MNI1	102.9	19.1	0.9	0.5		72.1	
At 49 Locations As Compared to:							
Pioneer Brand 3730	101.9	18.4	0.9	0.8		73.4	
LG 2499	101.1	19.4	1.5	0.4		72.1	
LG 2484	103.6	19.0	0.9	1.0		72.1	

TABLE 2

Overall Comparisons Hybrid vs. Check Hybrids Location: 2000 14 Locations Mini-Strips							
Pedigree	Mean Yield	% Moist	% Stalk	% Root	Stay Green	Test Weight	Plant Height
RAA1* RII 1	97.6	21.5	1.4	0.1		69.5	
At 14 Locations As Compared to:							
Pioneer Brand 38R21	89.9	19.9	2.6	4.3		70.8	
LG 2367	85.9	20.3	1.2	0.0		72.1	

TABLE 3

Overall Comparisons Hybrid vs. Check Hybrids Location: 2000 21 Locations UR8D01							
Pedigree	Mean Yield	% Moist	% Stalk	% Root	Stay Green	Test Weight	Plant Height
RAA1* MNI1	88.7	23.0	8.4	2.7	7	68.5	301
At 21 Locations As Compared to:							
Pioneer Brand 3730	88.9	21.7	4.9	10.0	4	70.1	301
LG 2512	83.7	22.6	3.1	9.3	6	69.5	304

DEPOSIT INFORMATION

[0198] A deposit of the inbred corn seed of this invention is maintained by AgReliant Genetics, 4640 East State Road 32, Lebanon, Indiana 46052. Access to this deposit will be available during the pendency of this application to persons determined by the Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks to be entitled thereto under 37 CFR 1.14 and 35 USC 122. Upon allowance of any claims in this application, all restrictions on the availability to the public of the variety will be irrevocably removed by affording access to a deposit of at least 2,500 seeds of the same variety with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, Va. 20110.

[0199] Although the foregoing invention has been described in some detail by way of illustration and example for purposes of clarity and understanding. However, it will be obvious that certain changes and modifications such as single gene modifications and mutations, somoclonal variants, variant individuals selected from large populations of the plants of the instant inbred and the like may be practiced within the scope of the invention, as limited only by the scope of the appended claims.